

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-8, 12, 14-18 and 20 are allowed, and claims 9-11, 13, 19 and 21 are rejected. In particular, claims 9, 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,095,560 to Toyoda et al (“Toyoda”), and are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,695,274 to Kamilhara et al. (“Kamilhara”). Claims 9, 11 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2006/0055909 to Fiolka et al. (“Fiolka”). Furthermore, claims 13 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Japanese patent document 6-204121 in view of US. Patent No. 5,482,801 to Smith et al. (“Smith”).

Claims 1-8, 12, 14-18 and 20 are allowed. (10/02/2006 Office Action at p. 4-5).

By this paper, claims 9-11, 13, 19, 21 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering the rejections to the above-identified claims moot.

Claims 12, 14, 15, 18 are amended to an independent form. In particular, these claims are amended to recite an apparatus/method comprising, *inter alia*, an illumination optical system including “a splitting optical system ...; a first polarization unit ...; a second polarization unit ...; and an integrating optical system ...”, which is disclosed in the original claim 1.

Claims 20 and 22 is added to recite an apparatus/method comprising, *inter alia*, an illumination optical system including “a first diffraction optical element ...; a second diffraction optical element ...; a first polarization unit ...; a second polarization unit ...; and an integrating optical system ...”, which is disclosed in the original claim 12.

Appl. No. 10/538,230
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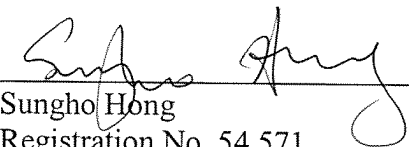
No new matter will be added by the amendment. Entry is respectfully requested.

This application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5682.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: November 13, 2006

By: 
Sungho Hong
Registration No. 54,571

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
(212) 415-8701 Facsimile

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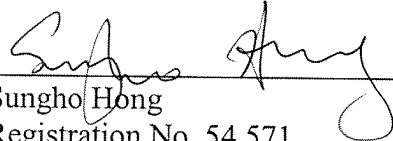
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